

## OUR SOURCE & SHIELD

Does It Matter What You Believe?

- I. **This psalm is a picture of faith in God hooking him to his source and activating his shield-Ps23:1-**  
*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*
- A. The Psalm is set in a very trying time in David's life-David composed this psalm during one of the most dangerous and discouraging times in his life. He was a forlorn fugitive, fleeing from King Saul and his army. In desperation David hid himself in a barren, desolate, forest called Hareth, named so because it was parched and dry like baked earthenware. (1Sam22:5,23:15-19AMP)
1. He's in a place of scarce provision-I shall not want (lack, decrease, be without, lessen); If you're in a place of abundant provision there's no need to make that declaration
  2. He's in the valley of the shadow of death-Shadow of death means these things are close or looming-Distress, extreme danger, calamity-misfortunes which bring great distress, pestilence, ruin; *Hebrew Commentary*-A place of danger which is as dark and forbidding as the grave
    - a. David's life was never more in danger when he was alone and fleeing from Saul and his army
  3. He's in the presence of his enemies (Besiege, adversary, harasser)-He's under attack
  4. Where he is not-He's not in a place of plenty, where everything's good and his enemies aren't attacking
- B. He's needs a source and a shield and he needs some faith-He needs provision in this place of scarcity, protection in this place of danger; With a source and shield he can get through this victoriously
1. To hook to his source and activated his shield he need's some faith-Pr29:25-The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe (inaccessible); Pr28:25-He that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat (satisfy, become prosperous)
  2. Here's the issue and this is always the issue: What will he believe?-B/c if he will believe all things are possible to him that believes-Mk9:23 and this is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith-1J5:4; Ps34:22-Lord redeems the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate (perish)
  3. The issue is never what's going on around you, but rather is there any faith in you because if there is faith in you no matter what's going on around you, you can overcome (Schambach-You don't have any trouble)
- C. This Psalm is his declaration of his faith-In this Psalm keeping asking 1) Where is he? 2) What does He see?
1. David directs his faith towards God being His source and shield-The Lord is my Shepherd (One who provides and protects the flock)-God is my source and shield; He latches onto provision and protection
  2. I will not want-This is not just desire, wanting, wishing, hoping for an outcome, but declaring what the outcome will be; Many Christians know nothing of this – This is expectation, confidence, conviction
  3. He's set to flourish during this time not just to barely get by-He's faith is out there for the nice stuff; *Green pastures*-Pleasant, luxuriant, lush; H.Com-God seeks out choice grazing grounds for His flock; *Still waters*-Waters of tranquil stream are clear and sweet; Those of a torrential river are muddy – Never shrink your faith down to your circumstances
  4. He restores my soul-Your inner man can become faint (particularly in pressured times) but God provides for you there as well; He can restore (give strength, refresh) your soul (inner being)-**Eph3:16**

5. I will fear nothing bad-This is a choice to trust and not be afraid-**Ps56:3**-*What time I am afraid I will trust in you*
    - a. This decision lies at the core of the fight of faith-If it's not made the fight of faith can't be won and victory can't be experienced-
    - b. It's the first thing you do-**Lk8:50**-*Fear not believe only and she shall be made whole*
  6. For thou art with me in the valley of the shadow of death-The Source and The Shield being with me gives me the ability to have whatever I need and be protected no matter where I am; You can't keep a man down who the Lord is with (See Joseph)
  7. Your rod and your staff comfort me-This is a source and shield-*Rod*-Stick for fighting; *Staff*-Sustenance (food, provision), support of every kind; *Comfort*-Ease, comfort in a time of difficulty and sorrow
  8. Our enemies want stop us from having what we need, but they'll watch us eat-(Table represents provision-Meal, one sends hands to get food); **Ps78:18**-*Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?*
  9. My cup runs over-Abundance in the wilderness
  10. Surely-This is the faith part again – Confidence and conviction
- D. Where did faith like that come from?-Feeding and Exercise
1. David used his faith lion, bear, goliath-David used His faith in God to get victory over these things and so he's exercising his faith-**1Sm17:34**-*David Said to Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock 37 The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine*
  2. David fed his faith-That faith He had to kill the lion, the bear, and Goliath didn't come from nowhere, but from hearing-**Ps119:97**-*O how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day 99 Your testimonies are my meditation 148-ER-Late into the night I stay awake and think about your Word*
- E. He didn't die in the valley of the shadow of death-Faith hooked him to his source, activated his shield and was his victory that overcame the world-**1Ch29:28**-*He died in a good old age, full of days, riches and honor*
1. David to get a supernatural results-*God did not forsake David. He soaked this dry forest with moisture, which had the flavor of the World to come, making even the grass and the leaves of the forest succulent and edible. This showed David that God supports and nourishes at all times even when the chances of survival seem to be non-existence-Is43:19-I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert*
- F. Does his faith matter at all in determining the outcome?-If he would have yielded to worry, fear, unbelief and not trusted would he have experienced the same outcome because it was God's sovereign plan?-**Lk8:50**-*Fear not believing only and she shall be made whole*
1. It absolutely matters what you believe-When you're talking about experience victory in a trying time